	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/787,514 Examiner	LI ET AL.  Art Unit
	Manager time 10. Occup	0075
	Hargobind S. Sawhney	2875
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.		
1. This communication is responsive to the application filred on 2/26/04.		
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1-12</u> .		
3. The drawings filed on 2/26/2005 are accepted by the Examiner.		
<ul> <li>4.</li></ul>		
<ul> <li>Attachment(s)</li> <li>1. ⋈ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. ⋈ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/0 Paper No./Mail Date 2/26/04</li> <li>4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material</li> </ul>	6. ☐ Interview Summary Paper No./Mail Dat 8), 7. ☐ Examiner's Amendr	te

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## Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-12 are allowed.

The prior art of record, including Redmond et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,664,862), and Mori (US Patent No.: 4,936,668), fails to show or suggest the applicant's invention as claimed. Specifically, the prior art of record does not disclose an illumination system combining:

- an optically transmissive light distributing member having an exterior surface in the form of a sequence of progressively smaller diameter cylindrical steps axially extending from its light-receiving end as recited in Claim 1; and
- each of the cylindrical steps including a plurality of axially spaced generally V-shaped grooves each including frusto-conical reflecting surface as recited in Claim 1.

The above-indication combination, including a light –transmissive rod including: a light-receiving end, an exterior surface with smaller diameter cylindrical steps, and the exterior surface further including light reflective grooves; makes this invention unique

Redmond et al. ('862) discloses an edge light for a panel display including an optical member having a light receiving end and an elongated body with an exterior surface including progressively reduced non-circular cross sections. Further, Redmond et al. ('862) teaches the optical member including a plurality of V-shaped grooves

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defined only on its major surface opposite to the light emitting surface. However, Redmond et al. ('862) does not teach an optical member with exterior surface including cylindrical steps each further including V-shaped reflective grooves as claimed by the applicant.

Mori ('668) discloses a light radiator including a tapered cylindrical light-guide rod having its exterior surface with spiral grooves. However, Mori ('668) does not teach does not teach an optical member with exterior surface including cylindrical steps each further including V-shaped reflective grooves as claimed by the applicant.

Thus, neither combined nor individual teaching of Redmond et al. ('862) and Mori('668) meets the limitations of the independent Claim 1.

Therefore, Claim 1 is allowed over prior art.

Claims 2-12 are necessarily allowed because of their dependency on the allowed Claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

## Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Li (U.S. Patent No. 6,829,412), Ferrante et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,595,673 B1), Koike (U.S. Patent No. 5,542,017), Cho et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,083,549), Long et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,276,693), Ruediger (U.S. Patent No. 4,344,110) and Hirano et al. (Japanese Patent No. JP 1184135).

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hargobind S Sawhney whose telephone number is 571 272 2380. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:15 - 2:45. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571 272 2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HSS

6/3/05

Stephen Husar Primary Examiner Page 4